(d) Steps taken to reduce flaring of gas include setting up of the required compression and transportation facilities, underground storage of gas and identification of consumers to utilise gas from isolated pools.

Statement

(Gas figures in MMSCMD and value in Rs. lakhs/day)

State	Gas Prodn.	Gas Flared	National Value
Western Offshore	45.30	1.67	25.1
Gujarat	7.86	0.76	11.4
Rajasthan	0.03	NIL	NIL
Assam	5.31	0.87	13.05
Tamil Nadu	0.32	0.27	4.1
Andhra Pradesh	1.85	NIL	NIL
Tripura	0.36	NIL	NIL

Note: National value taken as Rs. 1500/- thousand cu.mtrs.

Effect of privatisation and globalisation on the weaker sections

*412. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what benefits/advantage have directly accrued to the weaker sections of society as a result of Government's policy of privatisation and globalisation;

(b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard; if so, the findings thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to conduct any such study; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER ALAGH): (a) All sections of the society including weaker sections are expected to benefit from higher growth of income and employment that will result from Government's policy of delicensing and dereservation of industries and liberalisation of foreign investment and trade. This is particularly so since direct assistance programmes of employment, rural development and basic minimum services supplement other economic policies. However, since the process of privatisation and globalisation is of relatively recent origin, it is premature to expect direct effects on the economy, particularly the weaker sections.

(b) No specific study has been conducted by the Government in this regard. However the Five Year Plans do contain analysis of employment and income by different categories.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to conduct any such study. The government periodically collects data on various socio-economic indicators which reflect the benefits derived as a result of Government's policy.

Revision in the RPO dealers' commission

*413. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Corporations are revising the RPO dealers' commission as per the formula formulated in 1993, for the benefit of labourers working in the retial outlets;

(b) whether any representation on this issue from the RPO dealers or their Association is pending with Government/Oil Corporations;

(c) by when orders in this regard are likely to be issued; and

(d) whether the present increase in the commission due to price hike of petroleum products covers the increased cost of evaporation loss handling loss and draft charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The RPO dealers commission is revised every year on the basis of a formula which takes into account the increase in the wages based on the increase in All India Consumer Price Index.

(b) to (d) Various representations have been received for revising the rates of commission. A Committee constituted is examining the demands raised by the Dealers for revision in the commission.

मध्य प्रदेश की लम्बित पड़ी जल-आपूर्ति और मल-निकास योजनाएं

*414. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के बीस हजार से अधिक आबादी वाले शहरों की उन जल-आपूर्ति और मल-निकास योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है जो केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास स्वीकृति हेतु लम्बित पड़ी हैं; और

(ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा उन योजनाओं को कब तक अपनी स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दिए जाने की संभावना है?

शहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. यू. वेंकटस्वरलू): (क) 20,000 से अधिक आबादी वाले निम्नलिखित 2 (दो) कस्बों की जल-आपूर्ति स्कीमें तकनीकी अनुमोदन के लिए विचाराधीन हैं :

(i) **बस्तर जिले में कांडा गांव ग्राम के लिए जल-आपूर्ति स्कीम**

इस गांव के लिए 330.00 लाख रुपये की अनुमानित तागत की यह स्कीम तकनीकी अनुमोदन के लिए जून, 1992 में शहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्रालय में मिली थी। स्कीम की जांच की गयी और उस पर तकनीकी टिप्पणी राज्य के लोक स्वास्थ्य इंजीनियरी विभाग को अक्तूबर, 1992 में सूचित कर दी गयी थी। उसके बाद, अनुस्मारक देने के बावजूद भी, कोई जवाब न मिलने पर यह मामला नवम्बर, 1996 में बन्द कर दिया गया और तदनुसार इसकी सूचना राज्य सरकार को दे दी गयी। लेकिन हमारी टिप्पणियों पर राज्य के लोक स्वास्थ्य के इंजीनियरी विभाग से हाल ही में अब 16.12.96 को एक जवाब मिला है।

(ii) **बिलासपुर जल-आपूर्ति वृद्धि स्कीम**

यह स्कीम 1147.00 लाख रुपये की अनुमानित लागत से तकनीकी अनुमोदन हेतु फरवरी, 1996 में मिली। इसकी तकनीकी जांच की गयी और अगस्त, 1996 में टिप्पणियां राज्य लोक स्वास्थ्य इंजीनियरी विभाग को सूचित कर दी गयीं। इन टिप्पणियों पर राज्य लोक स्वास्थ्य इंजीनियरी विभाग का जवाब 16.12.96 को प्राप्त हुआ है।

अन्य स्कीमें स्पष्टीकरण के लिए मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को वापस भेजी गयी हैं।

(ख) अगर स्कीम प्रस्ताव तकनीकी दृष्टि से उपयुक्त पाये गये, तो उन स्कीमों का तत्परता से अनुमोदन कर दिया जाएगा।

Space travel by Indians

*415. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the Indians who have gone to space uptil now;

(b) what is their present status, condition and what are they doing now;

(c) whether any of them are facing any health problem related to their travel to space; and

(d) whether any study is being conducted on them after their return?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Till now only one Indian has gone to space, namely Sqn. Ldr. Rakesh Sharma of Indian Air Force (IAF) on 03 April, 1984 during Indo-Soviet Joint Manned Space flight.

(b) Shri Rakesh Sharma has retired from IAF and is presently working as Dy. Chief Test Pilot (Fixed Wing) with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bangalore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Studies were conducted in USSR jointly by Russian and IAF specialist medical officers immediately on return from space extending over a few weeks till the effects of space travel